(iv) Minimising the use of open wagons;

(v) Administrative measures such as tightening of security at depots, intensifying surprise checks, ensuring regular stock verifications etc.;

(vi) Augmentation of covered storage capacity;

(vii) Introduction of machine stitching of bags.

Drought relief work in Rajasthan

1090. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the acute drought situation in Rajasthan;

(b) the districts declared drought affected in Rajasthan; and

(c) the details of the drought relief work taken up in the State and the number of people employed in each district as a result thereof this year in comparison to the earlier five year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI NITISH KUMAR): (a) According to the India Meteorological Department report for the period 1st June to 8th August, 1990, West Rajasthan and East Rajasthan meteorological subdivisions have experienced excess/normal rainfall, the percentage departure from the normal being + 129% and + 10 per cent respectively. There is thus no acute drought situation in Rajasthan now.

(b) o district has been declared drought affected by the State Government during the current monsoon period.

(c) Does not arise.

Production and consumption of Vanaspati

1091. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total consumption of Vanaspati in the country; State-wise;

(b) what is the production of Vanaspati in the country; State-wise; and

(c) in what manner Government propose to reduce the shortage if any, of Vanaspati?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI RAM PUJAN PATEL): (a) and (b) A Statement is annexed. (*See* below)

(c) Some of the measures taken by the Government with a view to reducing the shortage of vanaspati are:—

(i) Stock limits of edible oil seeds restored to lower levels.

(ii) Increase in minimum margin for bank advances ordered by RBI; and

(iii) Central Government is in constant touch with the State Governments to take up dehoarding operations.